



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 060751-5001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Katsumi HARUMOTO, et al.

Application No.: 10/731,443

Date Filed: December 10, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2853

Confirmation No.: 5177

For: **IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, A DEVELOPER LEAKAGE PREVENTING MEMBER FOR USING THE SAME AND A METHOD FOR SHIPPING/TRANSPORTING AN IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS**

Commissioner for Patents

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form-1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form-1449. This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

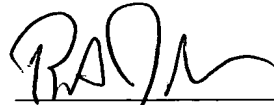
The relevance of the cited documents, which are in a language other than English, can be understood from the discussion at paragraphs [0007] – [0011], the respectively attached English language abstracts and the drawings therein. (Here, JP 64-49953 is the same as JP 01-49953.)

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

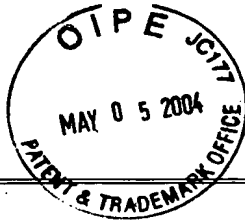
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Goodell', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Goodell
Reg. No. 41,040

Date: May 5, 2004

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

PTO Form 1449

Attorney Docket No.
060751-5001

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Applicants
Katsumi HARUMOTO, et al.Filing Date
December 10, 2003

Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation	
							YES	NO
		JP64-49953U	March 28, 1989	Japan			Abstract	
		JP2000-19839A	January 21, 2000	Japan			Abstract	
		JP2002-214906A	July 31, 2002	Japan			Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.